THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"You daughters of Zion, if you would be beautiful indeed, then garnish your minds, your inner selves, with these virtues: Faith, hope and charity. Then shall your whole being shine forth in a matchless beauty that may not be acquired in any other way."—RULON S. WELLS.

No. 10, Vol. 95 | Thursday, March 9, 1933 | Price One Penny

ORGANIZATION OF THE RELIEF SOCIETY

PRESIDENT LOUISE Y. ROBISON

DURING a period of spiritual renaissance in the 19th century, Matthew Arnold voiced this strange but significant statement: "If the time ever comes that women are organized for the sole purpose of human uplift, it will be a force for good such as the world has never known." At the time this observation was made, women had no political rights. She had few educational opportunities; no college opened its doors for her. Evidently this was a human prejudice.

We read of a time when the God of heaven spoke to woman, entrusted to her a most vital message—that she should become the mother of the Saviour of the world. After the crucifixion, woman was again honoured, when the risen Redeemer appeared, giving her a message of transcendent importance, that of conveying to His apostles the first word of His resurrection.

A decade had hardly passed after the Saviour's death, before curtailment in church activity came, and women were forbidden to speak in church, or to appear with head uncovered. Later, even the sacrament was denied her. Through all the centuries woman was deprived of political, property and educational rights, including church activity.

Such was the situation, when in 1830 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized. Within three months after the organization of the Church, a revelation was given through the Prophet Joseph Smith concerning the status of women in the Church. This is found in Doctrine and Covenants, Section 25:

I speak unto you, Emma Smith, my daughter; for verily I say unto

you, all those who receive my gospel are sons and daughters in my kingdom. . . . And thou shalt be ordained to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church, according as it shall be given thee by my spirit.

The revelation concludes thus: "This is my voice unto all."

The Church moved westward, and settled in Illinois on the banks of the Mississippi River, then a frontier, where was established the City of Nauvoo. Here hundreds of converts came. The people were without adequate housing, the climate was described as "mostly unhealthy," and the winters were bitterly cold. These conditions contributed to the illness of many people, followed, as is always the case, by want and destitution. Kind friends cared for those in their neighbourhood, but it was impossible to know all of the new arrivals, and too often, whole neighbourhoods were striken. The need for organized relief was apparent, but they knew of no precedent, no history of such organization.

On March 17th, 1842, the Prophet Joseph Smith met with eighteen representative women of Nauvoo, and on that day the Relief Society was organized. It is remarkable that the foundation laid, was so nearly ideal, that after ninety years it harmonizes with modern welfare work, and embraces all of its departments. Even the advice then given is the last word in successful organized work: Not to injure the character of anyone. To be merciful to one another, and bear with each other's failings, and not blame or criticize people for their shortcomings.

The aims and objects of the society were to manifest benevolence, irrespective of creed or nationality. To care for the poor, and sick and the unfortunate. To assist in correcting the morals and strengthening the virtues of community life. To raise human life to its highest level. To elevate and enlarge the scope of women's activities and conditions. To foster love for religion, education, culture and refinement.

It is interesting to compare the instructions given to the Relief Society and the principles and policies adopted in 1842, with those recently published by Mr. Elwood Street, in his book entitled, *Social Work Administration*. Mr. Street, a recognized authority on welfare work, says:

> Organization is one of the fundamental characteristics of modern civilization. The individual is unable to know the needs of his fellow citizens, or to call upon the community's resources for meeting those needs. The charitable organizations can develop the benefits of group thinking and of collective action. It can secure public support and funds impossible for the individual, and can conserve them through the years.

Soon after the organization a meeting was called, at which there was a greatly enlarged attendance. These sympathetic women were eager to assist those in distress, and in addition to money, many laid their jewelry upon the table to be sold, the proceeds

to be used to care for the needy. But who knew where all the sick were, so that no person would be neglected? The situtation was met later by appointing a committee of sixteen women to search out the poor and suffering, to call upon the rich for aid, and thus, as far as possible, relieve the wants of all. They were called the "necessity committee," and were the forerunner of a group of twenty-three thousand women known to-day as Relief Society Visiting Teachers. The spirit of the work is the same, that of loving service in all the wards and branches. It is a democratic system of community visiting. Each month all members of the Church are visited, rich and poor alike.

In addition to these regular visits there were in one year 204,000 visits to the sick and homebound, when flowers or some delicacy are carried, or some other service is rendered. Forty-four thousand five hundred days or nights were spent in caring for the sick. In our smaller communities, where there are no undertakers, our Relief Society women care for the dead, often covering the plain board coffin, making clothing for and dressing the dead, as well as providing for the needs of the sorrowing family.

Beginning with the eighteen charter members, the number increased in one year to 1,180. The membership to-day is 66,884, with 1,585 wards and branches. The organization is equipped with district or stake divisions for supervisory purposes, and with local branches or ward units where the actual work is carried on. The local work consists of weekly meetings for members, in which the educational programme is featured; work meetings for sewing and remodeling; and the administration of out-door relief for the needy.

This same systematic organization is operating in forty-six states of the United States, in Canada, Mexico, Europe, South Africa, Australia, Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga. In most of the organizations the same study work is used, but in all of them the spirit of loving service is paramount, for the spirit, after all, is the vital part. Service rendered without remunerative reward is God-like.

Our object is to raise human life to its highest level—our motto is: "Charity never faileth."—(Radio address delivered in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., October 16th, 1932.)

NOTICE.—The Relief Society Board of the British Mission has chosen for the theme of this year's Relief Society Annual Day celebration, the life of Eliza R. Snow, she being one of the early leaders in the development of this organization. A programme developing this theme has been sent to all of the Mission branches to insure the uniform programme being carried out on Sunday, March the 19th.—RINTHA PRATT DOUGLAS.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP

ELDER GEORGE ALBERT SMITH
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

WHENEVER I go to Relief Society Conference, and I have been going for a long time, I always enjoy a sweet influence, and I feel that I am looking into the faces of women who are the backbone of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The members of this great Church have been honoured in many ways, but I know of no group of women in the world that has been more honoured than the Relief Society organization.

. . . .

Among all the women's organizations in the world, this one, in my judgment, stands first. We have been marking the pioneer trails. I may get myself into difficulty by making a recommendation, but I think there is one thing lacking in the City of Nauvoo. There ought to be a monument to the Relief Society in that city. The Church was not organized there. We should have a monument where the Church was organized and will have, no doubt, but I think this great women's organization ought to be dignified at its birthplace by a fine monument.

CALLED TOGETHER BY A PROPHET OF THE LORD

When I think of what the women whose names are in this record and those who have followed them have done for this Church and for humanity, there is not any good thing that can be done to perpetuate their memories with which I would not be glad to be associated. Think of what the Lord has required of this group of women. You have been unusually honoured. Your particular organization was brought about under the direction of a Prophet of the Lord. We have all kinds of societies in the world, but it is rather remarkable to have the women's organizations of this Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints called together by a Prophet of the Lord, and to receive at his hands instructions calculated to place your names foremost among the women of the world. I think that is wonderful. I understand that there are 66,800 women in this organization. What may you not do in the interest of righteousness, if you are doing your full duty? There is power that cannot be measured, and I feel that the opportunity is here and now.

It is marvellous to me, as I read the Holy Scriptures, both ancient and modern, to find how many times our Heavenly Father has shown us the way to happiness. So many opportunities are presented for our welfare, and how He has stressed these words of the English language, "charity and love." I know of no organization in all this world that ought to so fully exemplify the meaning of these two words as the National Relief

Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The measurement of the result of what love and charity may bring into the world is impossible. Opportunity is offered in every branch and ward and mission field to go about radiating sunshine, developing happiness and lifting up those who are discouraged, and bringing joy and comfort to those who are in distress, and the beauty of it is that when you are doing that, you are only obeying the very instruction that was given by the Prophet Joseph Smith when the Relief Society was organized.

MISSION OF LOVE OFFERS OPPORTUNITY

Is it not wonderful to feel that you are identified with an organization, the mission of which is love? It is marvellous how that opportunity has been offered to you. When people are in distress you are permitted to go into their homes, not as beggars, not as intruders, not as those who go about putting themselves forward unnecessarily, but by divine appointment you have the right to go into the homes of those who are in distress, and if you have the spirit of your mission, as you should have, every home will be dignified and sanctified by your presence. There is no way of knowing how many lives have been uplifted and touched by this organization. I suppose there will be no means here on earth to discover how many souls have been made to feel that they are indeed children of our Heavenly Father. But there is a record being kept. That record will have inscribed upon it every performance of this faithful body of women wherever they may labour in all the world. God, our Heavenly Father, is not unmindful of these things. As you go to and fro in the performance of your duty, whenever you speak a kind word, or make a contribution of money or food, whenever you go out of your way to uplift those who are discouraged, you are making a permanent investment that will return to you an eternal dividend, and our Heavenly Father has promised you that dividend. Can there be anything more lovely or desirable than to be daughters of the living God with a mission to perform? You are called to labour for the salvation—not only the temporal salvation—but the spiritual salvation of your sisters.

I am so grateful that your work is not limited alone to charity in the sense that we usually refer to it, but that it also includes the duty of disseminating truth, of going to and fro among the people of the Church, and bringing to them the message that will enrich their lives and determine in them that they will be better than they have been before.

It is the little things that come into our lives that mean so much. I remember a delightful experience that came into my life as the result of a pilgrimage which was made into the wilderness of Wyoming, a little less than two years ago. We came to that part of the trail where the Martin Handcart Company had

lost so many lives. We found, as near as we could, the place where they camped. Those who were descendants of that party were there to assist in placing a marker. Then we came to Rock Creek; a temporary marker had been placed there by us the year before. At that particular time of the year beautiful wild flowers were growing everywhere, the wild iris was plentiful, and members of the party gathered some of these flowers and laid them tenderly upon a mound of stone that had been piled up the year before by an aged man named Jackson, who was not of our faith. Here 15 members of this Church had been buried in one grave, they having died from hunger and exposure.

NEARNESS TO GOD FELT AROUND A CAMP FIRE

You know there are times and places when we seem to come nearer to our Heavenly Father. As we sat around the camp fire in that little valley of Rock Creek, where the Willey Handcart Company had met disaster—we who were descendants of the pioneers, of those who had crossed the plains in the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter—stories were told of the experiences of our ancestors. Our forebears had helped to make the trail so plain at this point. It was a delightful occasion. History was being repeated for our benefit.

The next morning an unusual thing occurred. We were all gathered around the grave of these 15 people, and there we sang "Hard Times Come Again No More." A sister played the accordian and a brother played the violin beautifully. I have never heard more tuneful voices than were there that beautiful morning. Then we joined in prayer, and as we stood there it seemed to me that we were in the very presence of those who had given their all that we might have the blessings of the Gospel. We seemed to feel the presence of the Lord. As we walked away, after we had shed our tears—for I doubt if there was a dry eye in that group of about 30 or 40 people—the influence that came as a result of that little gathering had touched our hearts, and one of the good sisters took me by the arm and said, "Brother Smith, I am going to be a better woman from now on." This woman, if I were to mention her name, you would say is one of the best of women, but I believe she was touched as probably most of us were, by the fact that in some particulars we felt that we had not measured up to the ideals that should have been in our souls. The people buried here had not only given days of their lives, but they gave life itself as evidence of their belief in the divinity of this work. The sweet influence enjoyed by us on that sacred occasion was full compensation for the effort to travel over the pioneer trail. If the members of this organization will be as faithful as were those who lie buried on the plains, who met their problems with faith in the Lord, you will add to your many accomplishments and the favour of a loving Father will flow to

you and yours. There never has been a time, in my judgment, when kindness was needed more than now. These are the days when people's souls are being tried, and when their hearts are being wrung. These are the days when many are facing hunger and distress even among the Latter-day Saints. These are the days when the Relief Society of this great Church is offered an opportunity to major, in my judgment, as it has never done before. I believe that you will rise to the dignity of your calling.

ROUTINE CALL BECOMES BLESSED DUTY

The perfunctory visit of the Relief Society ward teacher among the membership of this Church, if it has been a routine call heretofore, may become a more blessed duty and you will be real ministering angels carrying to the discouraged food and clothing and the cheering influence of love. These are our opportunities. I do not know when we have had such a privilege before. I believe our Heavenly Father is giving us our opportunity for development. We will find out now whether those who have claimed membership in His Church are worthwhile; we will discover now whether the love the Saviour said should be in our hearts is among us. I will say that the General President of Relief Society, with her board, the Stake Presidents with their boards, and the Ward organizations with their membership, should be a sisterhood unparalleled among the people of the world, demonstrating kindness and love.

Sometimes we have authority granted unto us. Our Heavenly Father has referred to it in the Doctrine and Covenants. You will find He says it is the nature and disposition of almost all men as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, to begin to exercise unrighteous dominion. He did not say that to the women, as far as I know, but I want to say that women in this particular are not unlike men. Generally they are more tender, but sometimes they use authority in a dominating manner and wound the feelings of their sisters unrighteously. The President of this great organization ought to be the one to set the example to all the women of the world by a consecrated life of righteousness, love, tenderness, patience and charity that should go forth from the head organization in every department. Then it will be found in every stake that those who preside will manifest the same attitude toward their associates, and in every ward these fine women will feel it a privilege to manifest the tenderness and love and consideration that they have had in their hearts for those who associate with them.

You know in this organization you are given presidents and counsellors. No president has the right to dominate or dictate. I am not assuming that they do. I hope you will not misunderstand me. The thing I want to emphasize is this: Our Heavenly

(*Continued on page 173*)

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1933

EDITORIAL

BRITISH MISSION GREETINGS

To the Relief Societies of the British Mission:

Beloved Co-labourers:

One good writer has said, "If God had designed woman as man's master, He would have taken her from his head, if as as his slave He would have taken her from his feet, but as He designed woman as man's companion and equal, He took her from his side."

From the beginning it was intended that man and woman should accompany each other and labour side by side. The Lord said, "It is not good that man should be alone, I will make an help-meet for him," and later He instituted the system of marriage and said, "Therefore shall man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

Women in older times were very greatly respected and honoured. Sarah, the wife of Abraham, became the mother of Isaac, with whom the Lord established an everlasting covenant. Rebecca, the wife of Isaac, had a promise from the Lord that she would become the mother of thousands of millions. Rachel, the wife of Jacob, became the mother of his beloved son Joseph, and oh, so many women of ancient times were highly honoured of the Lord; Miriam, the sister of Moses, Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Elizabeth; and in these latter days, Emma, the wife of the Prophet, Eliza R. Snow, the prophetess, and Zina Young, distinguished for her nobility, and Louise Y. Robison, our present President.

There have been, however, periods of time when women were silenced in their speech and it was not permitted unto them to speak in churches, but in these latter days, especially since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, women have come into their own. This great change, giving women their place in world's history, where they stand side by side with men, had its beginning since 1842, when the Relief Society was organized, a benevolent organization to help the poor, the needy and the downtrodden.

From a small beginning of eighteen members ninety-two years ago, the present enrollment of between sixty and seventy thousand, this great organization is felt for good in nearly all countries in the civilized world.

Here in the British Mission there are upwards of sixty separate and distinct organizations, presided over by faithful, dutiful sisters. Members looking after the needs of the sick, the poor, the widow and fatherless, and those who need succour and attention. Not only has woman been able to bring comfort to the

RELIEF SOCIETY BOARD OF THE BRITISH MISSION

(Left to right) GRACE T. PUGH, 1st Counsellor; RINTHA PRATT DOUGLAS, President; INEZ CAMERON RUSSELL, 2nd Counsellor; CATHERINE L. M. HORNER, Secretary.

downcast and distressed, but she has risen in distinction and power until now she takes her place in Parliament, Congress and State.

Dear Sisters of the British Mission, we greet you at this time with love, admiration and gratitude in our hearts for your unselfish service to help the needy in distress, the downtrodden in their afflictions, and give comfort and solace to all who need your sympathy and help.

May our Heavenly Father be with and bless you in this wonderful, self-sacrificing, labour of love.

Devotedly your sisters,

RINTHA PRATT DOUGLAS, President
GRACE T. PUGH, First Counsellor
INEZ CAMERON RUSSELL, Second Counsellor
CATHERINE L. M. HORNER, Secretary

GREETINGS

MARCH 17TH, 1933, marks the 91st anniversary of the organization of the Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one of the first organizations of women in modern times. On this day the Relief Society Board of the European Missions sends greetings to all of the Relief Society officers and members throughout Europe. We are grateful at this time for the inspiration which guided the Prophet Joseph Smith to inaugurate this organization with all of its soul-filling and inspirational opportunities for the advancement of the womanhood of the Church. We are grateful to the leaders of the Relief Society since its organization who have carried on the work and developed it until to-day it has become one of the largest and most comprehensive organizations "of women, by women and for women" in the world. Eighteen women began the work ninety-one years ago; to-day the membership is well over sixty-five thousand mature women of many different nationalities.

In the European Mission there are about five thousand members, and to each and every one of you goes this day our special greetings and goodwill. We are grateful for your loyalty and industry; for your courage in overcoming all necessary difficulties, that you may belong to and participate in the activities of the varied and progressive programme of Relief Society activity. We congratulate you on being able to study the glorious truths taught in our interesting and enlightening programme. We realize with you that by so doing we are all built up and made more useful and happy in performing our daily tasks and in living worth-while lives.

To the officers of all the organizations, including the newly-appointed Mission Boards, we would say: Be prayerful and humble in your hearts for you have been called to positions of leadership, and as such must remember that your willingness to love and serve others must be greater than it has ever been before. One who loves most and forgets self-interest in serving others makes the greatest leader. You have been called to your present position, not because of your seniority as a Church member nor even as any special reward for past service; but because your leaders have been directed by inspiration that your powers will enable you to fill your present position. The knowledge of the trust imposed in you should never make you feel proud or that you are better or more capable than others in your group, but that you must be ever more willing to give your best effort to further the interests of the cause you represent. If you will let this thought rule your actions you will be truly successful and will be able to gain and keep the love and respect of all with whom you associate. In all your efforts, keep this thought in mind: "This is the Lord's work; and my unselfish contribution will help it to function as

He intended it, for the uplift of all His children." If you will do this constantly your powers will increase, the work of the Relief Society will prosper and grow in your mission, and no power may stay its progress. For as you *are* as leaders, so will the membership become—and this applies to every officer, to the least as to the highest.

Let not your heart be troubled because you were given what

RELIEF SOCIETY BOARD OF EUROPEAN MISSION

Leah D. Widtsoe, President

Elizabeth T. Wallis, 1st Counsellor — Nettie L. Woodbury, 2nd Counsellor

Ileen A. Waspe, Secretary

you may think is a lowly office when in your opinion you could fill a higher call. Give your best to the work you have been asked to do; magnify it no matter how humble it may be. Your work will speak for itself and your powers used ultimately where they can do most good. Could you ask more? It is not the position we hold that matters, but the feeling of satisfaction in our hearts that we have given of our best, unselfishly. The ambitious office-seeker—one who seeks office for the plaudits of the crowd—is always an unlovely character. But nowhere does such a one be-

come so conspicuously unattractive as in the service of the lowly Master, in His Church on earth. So wherever called to labour, do your best; work with joy and vigour and in time as your powers increase, they will be more completely utilized in building up righteousness on earth.

Remember also that your office is not a life job. You have been called to act for a season, it may be one year or five. If your leaders think best through the inspiration to which they are entitled, you may be removed after a few months. But whenever your release comes, take it with a smile and be grateful that you have been worthy to serve in any capacity. Then go back into the ranks cheerfully and be as active and prayerful for the success of the new officers chosen to fill your place as you desired others to be for you when you filled the position. In the Church of Christ every member shares opportunity with every other member. There is no favoured permanent ruling class. This is especially true in all the auxiliaries. Therefore must officers rotate.

To the membership of our great sisterhood our message is to support your leaders, each in her office, not only by your uplifted hand as you vote them into office, but in your hearts and especially by your spoken words and daily actions. Their work is oftentimes arduous, they are asked to do much more than you are and need your active approval as well as your prayers in their behalf. You may be asked some day to act in some official capacity in the Church, and if you do not give full and loyal support to your present leaders and officers how may you expect others to sustain you should your turn come? The first qualification of a good "leader" is to have been a loyal "follower," to have learned to give full support to chosen leaders.

The success of this great Society depends upon you. It was founded through the inspiration of God for your benefit, that you might become more consistently an inspiration to your brethren and sisters, more fit to influence for righteousness the thoughts and the lives of all your loved one and friends. Remember this, dear sisters: The world can be no better than its women; for in their hands is placed the power of moulding the character and the lives of little children who are the citizens of to-morrow. Any power that can improve the status of womanhood is a power for world improvement. Just such a power is your own Relief Society; and as you use that power so will your world be bettered, or retarded.

The Relief Society study course is planned to help you use with increasing power your influence for righteousness. Make use of it. Study a little every day, for only so may we make any real improvement. Be active in all the Society programme and you will grow in proportion to the effort you put forth.

So run our thoughts and our prayers in your behalf on this

our anniversary date. The Lord is pleased with your efforts. He realizes that during these years of stress your burdens are heavy and your trials many. It has always been the task of women to be the inspiration and maintain the courage of the home. Help in this great task can come from but one source. When we are serving the Master we have a right to His blessings. Shall we not all look into our hearts and pledge anew our allegiance to this great work? It is ours to use for the improvement of self and others. That we may all become more active in the spread of righteousness and receive a daily joy in fulfilling all Relief Society requirements, is the earnest prayer of

Your sisters and co-workers,

LEAH D. WIDTSOE, President
ELIZABETH T. WALLIS, 1st Counsellor
NETTIE L. WOODBURY, 2nd Counsellor
ILEEN ANN WASPE, Secretary

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP

(Concluded from page 167)

Father has placed in these organizations three members. It is not just a president, it is a presidency, and when these three work together as our Heavenly Father has intended they should in every ward in this Church, under the supervision of the Bishop, they add a strength that cannot be estimated, to carry forth the benefits of the Gospel to the people of the ward in which they reside.

It is a wonderful privilege these stake presidents with their counsellors exercise. Use your counsellors, honour your counsellors, love them and do not be jealous of them. One of the mistakes we have made in this world is that we look askance at those who are favoured more than we. How slowly this Church would progress if the leaders operated in that way.

. . . .

One of the most wonderful stories contained in the Book of Mormon is the story of the sons of Helaman. I wonder sometimes as I see mothers leaving their children to the care of somebody else, seeking the social privileges of life, how many of them have read the story of the 2,060 sons of Helaman. I want to say to the mothers of this Church, if they will do their duty, they hold in their hands a power for righteousness and an uplift for a race of people not yet born, that will have something more to do than we have yet done, and it will take giants all their time to do it. So, I say, along with love, along with tenderness, along with charity and kindness to your associates, teach your daughters that are soon to become the mothers of men, what a power is placed in their keeping, and how they may exercise it to bless the world. This is not the work of man; this is not the work of Joseph Smith

or those who followed after. This is our Father's work; this is the Church that bears the name of the Redeemer of mankind, and how we should prize our membership and our fellowship, and we ought to so live that our fellowship would be complete, that there would be no drawing apart in suspicion because of anything that we may do. If the people of this world are to retain their faith in God, it will fall very largely upon the women of this Church to plant this feeling in the hearts of the growing boys and girls, and bring into their lives a desire to be worthy of the image in which they have been created.

It is said that the Jewish women of the world have been the purest of all women for generations. When young girls they have been taught that the Messiah is to come, and perchance, if they, as the daughters of Judah, will keep themselves clean, they may become the mother of the king of Judah. The result has been that all down the ages these women have prized their virtue, they have safeguarded it as life itself, and I am thinking to-night what influence that has had upon the race they represent.

You Relief Society women who have been blessed with a knowledge of what God has given to the children of men, train your daughters, train your sons, inspire in them a desire not to be like the world is, but to so live that they may be worthy to be earthly parents of choice spirits yet to come to earth.

Reference was made to-night by Sister Hyde to the large families in the Islands, of five or six children—why that family would look small as compared with the original pioneer families in Utah. It was marvellous how God blessed them, and do you know that the strength of this Church in most cases has descended from these large families.

One of the greatest and richest of all your blessings will be that which comes if you teach as you should, and train as you should, these choice spirits that our Heavenly Father is sending to the world in this latter day. When you go to your homes do not leave the training of your children to the public schools. Do not leave their training to the Primary, to the Sunday School, to the Mutual Improvement Association. They will help you and make a fine contribution, but remember what God Himself has said, that parents who do not teach their children faith in God, repentance and baptism and the laying on of hands when eight years of age, the sin be upon the heads of the parents. This is not a threat, my brethren and sisters, but it is the kind and loving advice of our Heavenly Father who knows all things and understands and realizes what it means when children are allowed to grow up without this training. I want to say that if Latter-day Saint parents are at home where they ought to be, teaching the things they ought to teach, they will be laying the foundations for a group of men and women that, in the not very far distant future, will be carrying on the work of the Lord.

We may cry to the Lord with all our might to preserve our sons and daughters, but unless we make our own contribution, I feel that we will awaken when it is too late, to the fact that we have been sleeping upon our opportunities.—(Address delivered at the Relief Society Conference, in Salt Lake City, Utah, October, 1932.)

NORWICH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE Norwich District conference was opened on Saturday night, February 18th, with a concert in the Raglan Street Conservative hall, sponsored by the Bee-Hive girls of the Lowestoft Branch. There were in the proximity of 150 members and friends in attendance. It proved a great success and was instrumental in gaining several new members for the Bee-Hive movement.

The Sunday sessions of the District conference held February 19th, at Lowestoft, in the branch chapel, were also well attended, and provided a spiritual feast to all present. After the preliminary programme of the morning session the congregation separated for class work, the ladies receiving instructions pertaining to Relief Society activities from Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas, and the Priesthood from President James H. Douglas and Patriarch James H. Wallis. Several of the members were set apart as district auxiliary supervisors, and a number of the brethren were ordained and advanced in the Priesthood. The visiting authorities admonished them to be loyal and faithful to their responsibilities.

In the afternoon session District President Eric J. Seaich gave the following statistical report of the district during the past six months: "We have had an average of four travelling Elders in the district, and they have devoted a total of 7,326 hours to active missionary work, and 729 hours of that time has been spent in tracting from door to door distributing a total of 44,153 tracts, 30 copies of the Book of Mormon, 29 other books dealing with the fundamentals of the Gospel, and 623 pamphlets. The Elders have gained many new friends and investigators through their efforts.'

The theme of the conference as stressed in each meeting was, "A divine system taught by Christ that is now functioning successfully, and is rewarding its adherents with prosperity." Capable speakers pointed out the perfection which marks the Church organization, and how happiness is promised to everyone who believes and lives its teachings.

At the evening session Sister Douglas bore testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel, and related how she first came to read the Book of Mormon. President Douglas used the witnesses to the Book of Mormon as his topic, and Patriarch Wallis delivered an inspiring discourse on the "Fruits of Mormonism."

The conference was directed by President James H. Douglas of

the British Mission, and the auxiliary meetings by Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas, consulting supervisor of auxiliary activities and president of the British Mission Relief Society. There were in attendance also, Patriarch James H. Wallis of the European Mission Office, and the following travelling Elders of the Norwich District: President Eric J. Seaich, Carl G. Agren, Vern R. Butcher, Wheeler R. English and Drayton B. Nuttall.

WHEELER R. ENGLISH, Clerk of Conference.

TO THE RELIEF SOCIETY

O ANGELS of mercy, O angels of light,
The servants of others from morning 'till night;
The thinkers and planners for all that is best,
So tired, but thankful, you go to your rest.

While sleeping and dreaming, God shows you the way,
You rise with the lark, prepared for the day;
While working and smiling you kindle the flame
Of service and love in the true Master's name.

The workers above and the workers below,
Are all by your side wherever you go;
You feel their blest presence, they lighten your task,
They give you the courage and wisdom you ask.

Dear sister, God bless you; press on with your load,
So easy to carry when you tread the right road;
Our Father is with you, He gives you His love,
While feeding the hungry—bread comes from above.

Good sisters, true love I give unto you,
Our Lord's faithful workers, so wise and so true;
A halo of light encircles each form,
I feel it, I see it—it keeps my heart warm.

W. H. APPERLEY, D. M.

DEATH

LEES—Brother Gerald Gordon Lees, aged three years, of the Nuneaton Branch, Birmingham District, died January 17th, after a brief illness. President Robert L. Bridge conducted the service and dedicated the grave.

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